

East Meath – North Dublin Grid Upgrade

Community Forum

7pm, 6th October 2022, Tyrrelstown Community Centre

Attending (members): Gerardine Doyle (Craobh Chiarain GAA club), Helena Merriman (St. Margaret's Parish Hall Committee), Sheelagh Morris (St Margarets Action Committee), Liam O Gradaigh (St. Margaret's GAA), Denis O'Leary (Kilbride Tidy Towns), Pearse Sutton (St. Margaret's The Ward), Rob Webb (Tyrrelstown Residents Community Council)

Apologies: Anne Marie Macken (Scoil Bhríde Kilbride Parents Association), Walter Moran (Dunboyne AFC), Siobhan O'Donnell (Fingal Chamber), Tom O'Mahony (Dunboyne Community Centre), Cllr Damien O'Reilly (Meath Co. Co), Alan Tobin (Meath Chamber),

Facilitation: Harriet Emerson

Welcome & Agenda

Harriet was delighted to welcome everyone in person and Denis O'Leary (Kilbride Tidy Towns) attending the Forum for the first time. Those present were happy to proceed with the draft agenda as circulated.

Minutes of Meeting 6th September 2022

The Draft minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated to all Forum members, including those newly signed up. No changes were identified as necessary and those present who had been in attendance accepted them as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

The importance of co-ordination of the works on the upgrade with other significant infrastructure developments was highlighted as a critical consideration in this process. This was illustrated with reference to the new tunnel proposal for the airport (subject to objections presently), which is a 2-3 year project. If work for that coincides with work on the Eirgrid upgrade, St. Margaret's will be in turmoil trying to handle related trucks and transport.

Discussion of community feedback to Forum members on the Four Proposed Routes for Grid Upgrade (published 7th September 2022)

The discussion in relation to the community consultation and feedback was clearly divided into two parts. The first concerned the roll-out of the consultation itself and the second comments from Forum members on the four proposed route options.

Challenges with Community Engagement

A number of aspects of the consultation were highlighted in discussion, with observations as follows:

Website links: Issues were identified with certain website links to Upgrade project information not functioning. This is very unfortunate in that it discourages those who may want to find out more. Two examples were provided where there has been either an intermittent or consistent fault identified -
<https://www.eirgridgroup.com/newsroom/eirgrid-launches-public-c/>
<http://eirgrid.ie/EastMeathNorthDublin>

It was agreed that these links would be passed on to EirGrid and any others that Forum members encounter will be notified to Eoghan O Sullivan or Harriet Emerson.

It was also suggested that some search engine optimisation would be advantageous as simple Google searches do not lead to the relevant EirGrid site.

Household leaflet drop: To date a number of Forum members had not received leaflets and a question arose as to who was contracted to deliver the leaflets and whether this has been completed. It was considered unfortunate that the leaflets received do not contain the specific dates, times and venues of open days, mobile information days and webinars.

Open Days: Forum members that had attended the Open Day on the 29th September at the Coolquoy Lodge indicated that there were very low numbers evident. Some 300 leaflets were handed out at a public meeting at St. Margaret's, The Ward, with details of the open days and it would be interesting to know what the numbers were in Coolquoy. Members present were interested to know the level of engagement EirGrid is achieving (across engagement mechanisms) as, if numbers are low, it suggests that the consultation is not being as effective as it might be.

Facebook & Social Media: Several Forum members, including those that have Facebook moderatorship roles for community organisations and who are consequently regularly checking social media, noted that they have not seen any Facebook advertising, or posts to noticeboards. It was suggested that circulating Forum members with Facebook information notices for the community and asking them to post these would be an additional means of reaching the target audience.

Roadshows: It was suggested that increased local (poster) publicity advertising visiting roadshows might increase engagement, as people may not grab the chance to find out more if they are caught for time or unaware of the limited time that the roadshow will be there.

Other Preoccupations: It was noted that communities may well be pre-occupied with other pressing concerns with examples given of the Appeal lodged with An Bord Pleanála in relation to restrictions on the airport, the roadworks in Kilbride village associated with the development of 4 large solar farms which are the focus of public attention at present, the MSD plant at Clonee, or the current cost-of-living crisis. There was acknowledgement that members of the community often fail to realise the impact of proposed.

Feedback on Route Options

Running West to East, the following are comments on sections of routes. The sections included here begin to the East of the M3, reflecting the location of the communities represented at the meeting. It is presented by Route Option and whichever other routes the section is included in are indicated next to the section (**B**=Blue, **R**=Red, **Y**=Yellow, **G**=Green). There is repetition – so that you can follow each route completely and see how they overlap.

Green Route

R147 (Bracetown Business Park) to Jn with L5026 **G**

- Noted as a very busy road

R147 /L5026 Jn to Kilbride **G, Y, R, B**

- Noted as a very busy road

Through Kilbride on Ratoath Rd **G**

- Will cause significant disruption through village, especially as junctions at either end are involved.

Kilbride (St. Brigid's) to Coolquoy (crossing M2) **G**

- This road is very narrow.
- Wet land North of Kilbride has seen roadsides collapse when previous works have been carried out.

- Significant level of services considered to be along this road already.

Coolquoy (R135) to Broughan Lane **G**

- This road is heavily used by traffic heading to Ashbourne, where access to shopping is often simpler than Blanchardstown, etc.

*From R135 along Broughan Lane to The Ward **G**

- This is a very narrow laneway.

*Broughan Lane through Newtown Cottages to R122 roundabout **G**

- Residential roadway.

*R122 to Millhead **G**

- -

** Suggestion here that 2 alternative options would be preferable*

- *to continue slip road from Cherryhound Roundabout straight out to near Millhead, as per proposal in County Development Plan (to facilitate western development of airport) and install services as constructed,*
- *Continue route further South on R135 to Kilshane cross, then head East to R122 on good road with virtually no residential development along it.*

R180 (from Millhead) around Northern perimeter of airport to Forrest Little **G, R**

- -

Forrest Little, along Naul Road to Cloghran Roundabout **G, R, B**

- -

Stockhole Lane, across M1 **G, Y, R, B**

- -

Green Bubble East of M1 **G**

- Much of this is IDA land which may provide possible option to minimise disruption

Blue Route

R147 /L5026 Jn to Blue Bubble around Kilbride **G, Y, R, B**

- Noted as a very busy road

Blue Bubble at Kilbride **B**

- Provides opportunity to avoid disruption at Kilbride Jn. if cables are laid along roads but routed around the junction with the petrol station & school.

Ratoath Rd to Hollystown Roundabout **B, Y,**

- There is lots of traffic on the Ratoath Road.

*Hollystown Roundabout **B, Y,**

- Big difficulties experienced at Hollystown Roundabout with almost continuous laying of services.
- 2,500 houses being constructed to West of Hollystown. There is concern that disruption of roads due to works for the upgrade will create real difficulties for construction traffic (earth moving etc.) and exacerbate conditions for local residents, in a complex area that is likely to take longer to carry out the work in.

*R121 from Hollystown Roundabout to St. Margaret's Golf Club **B, Y, R**

- Lots of blind corners along this road – not good for stop/go systems

**Suggested alternative possible route instead of R121 Hollystown to St. Margaret's Golf Club*

- *continue south from Hollystown (ideally avoiding Roundabout) and head East at next Roundabout to South (Corduff?) to Cherryhound Roundabout and from there straight out to near Millhead, as per proposal in County Development Plan (to facilitate western development of airport) and install services as constructed.*

St. Margaret's Golf Club R122 to St. Margaret's GAA **B, Y, R**

- Need to ensure constant access maintained to GAA grounds

North on Kilreesk Road, West on Killeek Lane, South on R108 to Cooks Rd **B, Y**

- No reason for this route extension is perceived. It is suggested that the route instead follow the R108 to North of the airport.

Stockhole Lane, across M1 **G, Y, R, B**

- -

Green Bubble East of M1 **G**

- Much of this is IDA land which may provide possible option to minimise disruption

Forrest Great, along Naul Road to Cloghran Roundabout **G, R, B**

- -

Stockhole Lane, across M1 **G, Y, R, B**

- -

Stockhole Lane to East of M1 **B**

- Less built up of proposed routes East of M1, less disruption likely than Malahide Road option (**Y**)

Red Route

R147 /L5026 Jn to Kilbride **G, Y, R, B**

- Noted as a very busy road

Ratoath Road to Red Bubble **R**

- Off-road option is desirable to avoid Hollystown Roundabout. Route could follow roads as close to Roundabout as possible but then move over-land.

*R121 from M2 to St. Margaret's Golf Club **R, B, Y**

- Lots of blind corners along this road – not good for stop/go systems

** Suggested alternative possible route instead of R121 Hollystown to St. Margaret's Golf Club – continue south from Hollystown (ideally avoiding Roundabout) and head East at next Roundabout to South (Corduff?) to Cherryhound Roundabout and from there straight out to near Millhead, as per proposal in County Development Plan (to facilitate western development of airport) and install services as constructed,*

St. Margaret's Golf Club R122 to St. Margaret's GAA **B, Y, R**

- Need to ensure constant access maintained to GAA grounds
- Possibility of dairy farmer's cows crossing this road

Kingstown to Millhead **R**

- -

R108 (from Millhead) around Northern perimeter of airport to Forrest Little, long Naul Road to Cloghran Roundabout **R, B, G**

- -

Red Bubble East of M1 **G**

- Much of this is IDA land which may provide possible option to minimise disruption

Yellow Route

R147 /L5026 Jn to Kilbride **G, Y, R, B**

- Noted as a very busy road

Kilbride on Ratoath Rd to Hollystown Roundabout **B, Y,**

- There is lots of traffic on the Ratoath Road.

*Hollystown Roundabout **B, Y,**

- Big difficulties experienced at Hollystown Roundabout with almost continuous laying of services.
- 2,500 houses being constructed to West of Hollystown. There is concern that disruption of roads due to works for the upgrade will create real difficulties for construction traffic (earth moving etc.) and exacerbate conditions for local residents, in a complex area that is likely to take longer to carry out the work in.

*R121 from Hollystown Roundabout to St. Margaret's Golf Club **B, Y, R**

- Lots of blind corners along this road – not good for stop/go systems

**Suggested alternative possible route instead of R121 Hollystown to St. Margaret's Golf Club*

- *continue south from Hollystown (ideally avoiding Roundabout) and head East at next Roundabout to South (Corduff?) to Cherryhound Roundabout and from there straight out to near Millhead, as per proposal in County Development Plan (to facilitate western development of airport) and install services as constructed.*

St. Margaret's Golf Club R122 to St. Margaret's GAA **B, Y, R**

- Need to ensure constant access maintained to GAA grounds

North on Kilreesk Road, West on Killeek Lane, South on R108 to Cooks Rd **B, Y**

- No reason for this route extension is perceived. It is suggested that the route instead follow the R108 to North of the airport.

Cooks Road **B, Y,**

- -

Forrest Little Golf Club North to on Forest Road to L2300 then East to R132 **Y**

- No understanding of any reason for this part of the route. Suggested that this instead follow the Naul road to the Stockhole Lane

Stockhole lane to Cloghran and across M1 **Y**

- -

Basking Lane to R107, the R139 **Y**

- Built up residential road where works will cause far more upheaval than other options suggested. Route is also far longer, so disruption lasts longer.

Discussion of Forum's Terms of Reference (Draft pre-circulated)

All those present were happy to accept the Draft Terms of Reference for the Community Forum as previously circulated.

Any Other Business

No other items were raised for discussion.

Next meeting

As previously agreed following email survey of Community Forum members, the next meeting will take place on Monday 17th October, in person. Liam O Gradaigh kindly undertook to look into an appropriate venue and the final selection will be notified to the Forum members once it is confirmed. Also as agreed, the EirGrid staff will be present so that they can respond to issues raised at this meeting and engage in discussion.

It was agreed that Harriet will endeavour to capture all the inputs made on the maps and in note form as part of these minutes. These will be circulated to members and to EirGrid staff in draft form, before

members can confirm the accuracy of all comments recorded, so that EirGrid staff have as much time as possible to consider the inputs made. It will be made clear to the EirGrid staff that there may be errors or inaccuracies in Harriet's notes.

Thanks were expressed to Rob Webb for arranging for us to use the Tyrrelstown Community Centre and to the staff there.

As there was no further business, everyone was thanked for their attendance and the meeting ended at 8.30pm.